

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

DTIC FILE COPY (2)

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
UNCLASSIFIED

DTIC

1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS

-ECTE

JUN 9 1988

3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

AD-A191 239

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5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)

AFOSR-TR- 87-1767

6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION

Univ. of California

6d. OFFICE SYMBOL

(If applicable)

7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

6b. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code)

Berkeley, CA 94720

7b. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code)

Directorate of Mathematical &amp; Information Sciences, Bolling AFB DC 20332-6448

6c. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

AFOSR

6e. OFFICE SYMBOL

(If applicable)

NM

9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

AFOSR-84-0158

6f. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code)

Bldg 410

Bolling AFB DC 20332-6448

10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NOS.

PROGRAM  
ELEMENT NO.

61102F

PROJECT  
NO.

2304

TASK  
NO.

A5

WORK UNIT  
NO.

11. TITLE (Include Security Classification)

Scientific Computing Environments

12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S)

W. Kahan

13a. TYPE OF REPORT

Final

13b. TIME COVERED

FROM 15 Aug 86 TO 14 Aug 87

14. DATE OF REPORT (Yr., Mo., Day)

Aug 1987

15. PAGE COUNT

2

16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION

17. COSATI CODES

FIELD GROUP SUB. GR.

18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)

19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)

Professor Kahan pursued research to provide improved subroutines for common arithmetic functions for scientific computations. He produced an algorithm for the accurate implementation of rational arithmetic operations without resorting to multi-precision arithmetic. This was described in a paper entitled "Rational arithmetic in floating point". He has also made a careful study of how to make branch cuts in the complex plane so as to allow evaluation of the elementary functions without any anomalies. This was presented in a talk at the conference on "State-of-the-Art in Numerical Analysis" held in Birmingham, England, April 14-18, 1986.

20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT

UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED ☒ SAME AS RPT. ☐ DTIC USERS ☐

21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

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22c. OFFICE SYMBOL

NM



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Final Technical Report  
for  
AFOSR-84-0158

**AFOSR-TR. 87-1767**

PI: W. Kahan

The work done with the support of this, and other grants, is concerned with providing users with reliable, accurate, fast support for their scientific computations. There has been widespread adoption of the IEEE standards, p. 754 and p. 854, for floating point arithmetic and it is natural to exploit their virtues in providing improved library subroutines.

Professor Kahan has supervised several graduate students (Stuart McDonald, K. C. Ng, Peter Tang, Z-S Liu, and Robert Corbett) on a project to provide elementary functions for the C-language Math library that runs on VAX's and on any other machines conforming to the standard. Detailed documentation is still not complete, the anticipated delivery date is September 1, 1987.

However, some other tasks that acknowledge AFOSR support have been put into the public domain.

1. Professor Kahan has produced an algorithm for the accurate implementation of rational arithmetic operations without resorting to multi-precision arithmetic. This is described in "Rational Arithmetic in Floating Point", PAM 343, Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics.
2. Professor Kahan has completed a careful study of how to make branch cuts in the complex plane so as to allow evaluation of the elementary functions without any anomalies. It proposes a novel idea that one needs not only

principal parts of these functions but "principal expressions" for them.  
Kahan gave an invited talk on this topic at the conference on "State-of-the-Art in Numerical Analysis", held in Birmingham, England, April 14-18, 1986. The paper will appear in the proceedings and acknowledges AFOSR support. A preliminary shorter version appeared, before this grant was proposed, as "Branch Cuts for Complex Elementary Functions", PAM 105, Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics, UC, Berkeley, October 1982.

Accession No.		
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Justification		
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Distribution		
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A-1		

